

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 HEW-06 SS-15 LAB-04

INR-07 /063 W

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R 131718Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6561

UNCLAS LONDON 16317

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (MORRIS, ALFRED AND ASHLEY, JACK)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO US BY UK MINISTER FOR DIS-
ABLED

1. ALFRED MORRIS, MINISTER FOR THE DISABLED, AND JACK ASHLEY, BACK BENCH LABOR MP, HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN WORK BEING DONE BY OTOLOGICAL MEDICAL GROUP IN LOS ANGELES TO HELP TOTALLY DEAF PERSONS BY IMPLANTING ELECTRODES IN BRAIN.

2. MORRIS, A LABOR MP SINCE 1964, HAS DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER TO HELPING THE CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED. ASHLEY, A LABOR MP SINCE 1966, WAS STRICKEN TOTALLY DEAF SEVERAL YEARS AGO. DESPITE THIS HANDICAP, HE HAS CARRIED ON FULL-TIME POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND HAS TWICE SINCE BEEN RE-ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT. HE HAS WRITTEN A BOOK ON HIS EXPERIENCE WITH DEAFNESS, AND HAS ALSO BECOME A WIDELY KNOWN AND RESPECTED CHAMPION OF INCREASED MEDICAL RESEARCH AND GREATER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE HANDICAPPED.

3. MORRIS AND ASHLEY WOULD LIKE OTOLOGICAL MEDICAL GROUP TO INVITE THEM TO LOS ANGELES FOR DEMONSTRATION OF WORK BEING DONE WITH BRAIN ELECTRODES. ON BASIS OF SUCH INVITATION, MORRIS, AS GOVERNMENT MINISTER, CAN OBTAIN HMG FINANCING FOR TRIP.

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4. ASHLEY, HOWEVER, CANNOT CALL ON HMG FINANCING AND IS

PERSONALLY UNABLE TO AFFORD TRIP. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT USG (THROUGH USPHS OR NIH) MIGHT SPONSOR TRIP TO LOS ANGELES BY ASHLEY FOR PURPOSE STATED? EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MONEY WELL SPENT.

5. POINT OF CONTACT IS:

DR. HOWARD HOUSE
2122 WEST THIRD STREET
LOS ANGELES, 90057
TELEPHONE: (213) 483-9930

6. ACTION REQUESTED. MORRIS AND ASHLEY ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING THE TRIP IN JANUARY. PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY (A) WHETHER OTOLOGICAL MEDICAL GROUP IS WILLING TO EXTEND REQUESTED INVITATION, AND (B) WHETHER ANY POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR USG TO AID ASHLEY'S TRAVEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON16317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0331
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741237/aaaabfpo.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED VISIT TO US BY UK MINISTER FOR DIS- ABLED
TAGS: OVIP, (MORRIS, ALFRED), (ASHLEY, JACK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005